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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Recent operations in Bui Chu met no serious resistance from Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) troops, which withdrew before the Franco-Vietnamese advances and disguised (sic) themselves in order to avoid combat.
2. DRV strategy is to wait until operations are completed and Vietnamese troops are dispersed throughout the area, and then launch simultaneous isolated attacks.
3. The administrative and ecclesiastical authorities are concerned about the transfer of the Bui Chu zone to the Vietnamese Command because:
 - a. The transfer does not give to Vietnamese authorities all the necessary arms and equipment such as artillery and motor vehicles.
 - b. The new Kinh Quan light battalions were hastily formed from conscripted troops and are not yet ready for responsibility.
4. Of the six battalions at Bui Chu, except the 719 Battalion which was newly formed for the defense of the town and bishopric, only the 701 and 702 Battalions are prepared. The 703, 704, 705, and 706 Battalions are still not ready for combat.
5. As the campaign "one battalion per province, one company per district" of Vo Nguyen Giap, Commander-in-Chief of the DRV Army, is considered accomplished, the DRV is now advancing provincial troops up to the regimental level; for example, the 121 Battalion of Ha Dong has become the 121 Regiment.
6. At the same time, the DRV has begun the selection of elements from the provincial units to be integrated into the regular units at the rate of one battalion per province. These new regular battalions are not yet integrated into any known division, but remain incorporated in provincial units from which they are appropriated to serve as part-time leaders.

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